

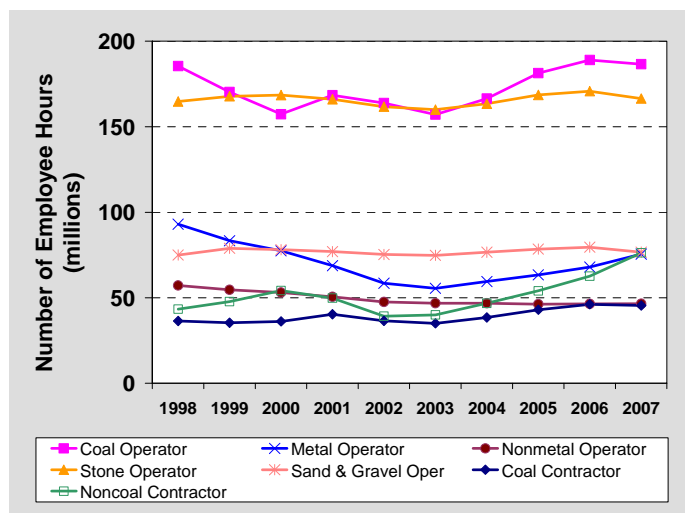
Mining Operations

In 2007, a total of 14,871 mining operations reported employment data to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).¹ Almost half (48.4%) were sand and gravel mines, followed by stone mines (31.2%), coal mines (13.7%), nonmetal mines (4.9%), and metal mines (1.9%).

Employees

There were 271,414 mine operator employees,² or 275,871 full-time equivalent (FTE)³ workers. For mine operators, 18.9% of the employee hours were for underground work locations, while 81.1% of the employee hours were for surface work locations.⁴

Of the 106,709 independent contractor employees (or 60,892 FTE workers), 36.4% were coal contractor employees and 63.6% were noncoal contractor employees.

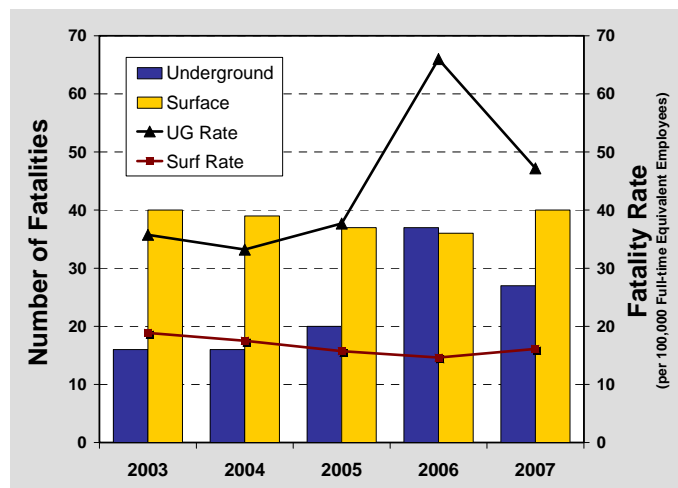


Fatalities

In 2007, there were 67 occupational mining fatalities, compared to 73 in 2006. The overall fatality rate was 21.9 per 100,000 FTE workers.

- The fatality rate for mine operator employees was 19.7 per 100,000 FTE workers (n=49; 73.1%), while the rate for contractor employees was 31.3 (n=18; 26.9%).
- Noncoal contractors had the highest fatality rate (33.3), followed by coal operators (31.2), coal contractors (28.0), and metal operators (21.1) per 100,000 FTE workers.

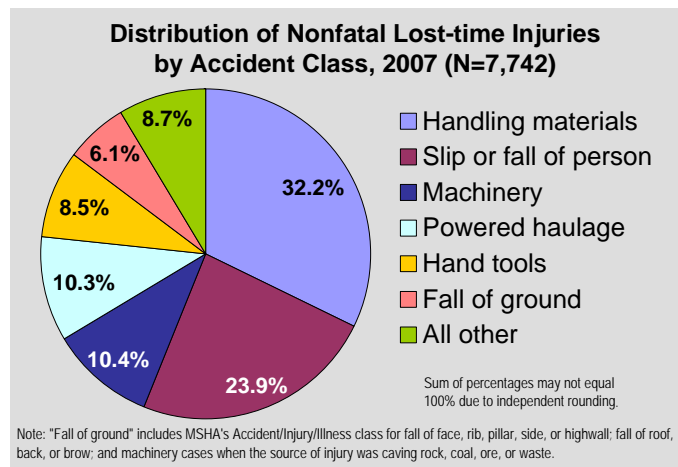
- The fatality rate at underground work locations was 47.2 per 100,000 FTE workers (n=27; 40.3%) compared to the lower rate at surface locations of 16.1 (n=40; 59.7%).



Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries

There were 7,742 nonfatal lost-time injuries reported to MSHA in 2007 (2,645 at underground and 5,097 at surface work locations). These injuries occurred at an overall rate of 2.5 per 100 FTE workers and resulted in a total of 426,219 days lost from work.⁵

- The underground nonfatal lost-time injury rate was greater than the surface injury rate (4.6 vs. 2.0 per 100 FTE workers).
- The back continued to be the most frequently reported body part injured, accounting for 1,371 nonfatal lost-time injuries, 77,027 days lost from work, and 18.1% of all days lost.
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury (n=3,310; 42.8%).



Mine and Employment Characteristics, 2007

Commodity and Type of Employer	Number of Mining Operations ¹			Number of Employees ²			Number of FTE Employees ³		
	Underground	Surface	Total	Underground	Surface	Total	Underground	Surface	Total
Coal Operator	631	1,399	2,030	37,829	46,242	84,071	42,238	51,027	93,265
Metal Operator	97	181	278	5,333	30,667	36,000	5,437	32,309	37,746
Nonmetal Operator	48	677	725	2,411	20,453	22,864	2,478	20,788	23,265
Stone Operator	113	4,526	4,639	1,845	80,873	82,718	2,063	81,191	83,254
Sand and Gravel Operator	NA	7,199	7,199	NA	45,761	45,761	NA	38,340	38,340
Operator Total	889	13,982	14,871	47,418	223,996	271,414	52,216	223,655	275,871
	Number of Companies								
Coal Contractor	NA	NA	2,999	5,160	33,705	38,865	3,071	19,670	22,741
Noncoal Contractor	NA	NA	5,400	3,039	64,805	67,844	1,935	36,216	38,151
Contractor Total	NA	NA	8,399	8,199	98,510	106,709	5,006	55,886	60,892
TOTAL				55,617	322,506	378,123	57,222	279,541	336,763

Mining Occupational Fatalities and Injuries, 2007

Commodity and Type of Employer	Occupational Fatalities (per 100,000 FTE employees)						Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries (per 100 FTE employees)					
	Underground		Surface		Total		Underground		Surface		Total	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Coal Operator	18	42.6	10	21.1	28	31.2	2,120	5.0	822	1.7	2,942	3.3
Metal Operator	3	55.2	4	14.4	7	21.1	178	3.3	620	2.2	798	2.4
Nonmetal Operator	1	40.4	0	0.0	1	5.0	91	3.7	417	2.4	508	2.5
Stone Operator	0	0.0	8	11.4	8	11.1	36	1.7	1,844	2.6	1,880	2.6
Sand and Gravel Operator	NA	NA	5	15.0	5	15.0	NA	NA	657	2.0	657	2.0
Operator Total	22	42.1	27	13.8	49	19.7	2,425	4.6	4,360	2.2	6,785	2.7
Coal Contractor	3	97.7	3	16.3	6	28.0	177	5.8	283	1.5	460	2.1
Noncoal Contractor	2	103.4	10	29.3	12	33.3	43	2.2	454	1.3	497	1.4
Contractor Total	5	99.9	13	24.8	18	31.3	220	4.4	737	1.4	957	1.7
TOTAL	27	47.2	40	16.1	67	21.9	2,645	4.6	5,097	2.0	7,742	2.5

NA Not applicable.

Data source: Publicly released data files of employment and accident/injury/illness collected by MSHA under 30 CFR 50.

Notes: All analyses of accident data exclude office employees. Occupational fatalities exclude all cases under 17 years of age. Further statistical methodology is available on the NIOSH Internet [<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/statistics/method.htm>]. Data in the above tables may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding. Caution should be used when interpreting rates based on a small number of events.

¹Mines at which only independent contractors were working did not show any employment and were not counted.

²Average number of employees working at individual mines during calendar quarters of active operations (includes office workers).

³Full-time equivalent employees computed using reported employee hours (2,000 hours = 1 FTE).

⁴Surface work locations include surface operations at underground mines, surface operations (strip or open pit), auger, culm banks, dredge, other surface operations, independent shops and yards, and mills or preparation plants.

⁵Includes actual days away from work and/or days of restricted work activity. For permanently disabling injuries only, statutory days charged by MSHA were used if they exceeded the total lost workdays.

To receive NIOSH documents or more information about occupational safety and health topics, contact NIOSH at

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

TTY: 1-888-232-6348

e-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov

or visit the NIOSH Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>

DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2009-157